Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogical Dept.
Murphy - Murphree Family

Murphy File

GOVERNORS ASSOCIATED WITH ROBESON COUNTY [1]

Henry A. McKinnon, Jr.

Robeson County's first native son to become a governor was John Murphy, governor of Alabama from 1825 to 1829. My discovery of him came when I mentioned to Hector MacLean of Lumberton my findings about Governor James Johnson of Georgia as a native Robesonian, (The Robesonian, April 5, 1992). Hector, son of Governor Angus Wilton McLean of North Carolina, and one of the most knowledgeable persons living about local history and families, told me of Governor Murphy and his North Carolina origin, and furnished me with a biography and other valuable information about him and his family connections here. Searches in local records have added more to his story.

According to the "Dictionary of Alabama Biography" John Murphy was born in about 1785 in Robeson County, the son of Neil Murphy, who came with his father, Murdock Murphy from Scotland. The family moved to South Carolina, possibly Marion County, when Governor Murphy was a child, and he acquired his education there. He taught school to gain the means to attend college, and graduated from South Carolina College in 1808, second in his class.

While studying law, and still in his early 20's, John Murphy was elected Clerk of the South Carolina Senate, a post he held for 10 years, and during the same period he served as a trustee of his alma mater, now the University of South Carolina. In 1818 he moved to Alabama and settled on the Alabama River, about half way between Selma and Mobile.

At the time John Murphy migrated to Alabama it was still a territory. Southern Alabama was ceded to the United States by Spain in 1795, and it only became an attractive place for settlement after the War of 1812. Murphy's move is another example of the great number of people who migrated south and west from North and South Carolina during that period. The famed "Black Belt" of southern Alabama, so called for its deep, fertile soil, was then considered the best cotton land in the South.

Murphy became a planter in Alabama and did not practice law there. He immediately became a leader in the movement for statehood, and in 1819 was Monroe County's delegate to the convention which drafted the state's constitution. From then until his death he was actively involved in Alabama politics.

He was elected to the state legislature in 1820 and to the Senate in 1822. He was elected as the fourth governor of Alabama in 1825, at the age of 40, and was re-elected in 1827 without opposition. In 1828 he was a Union Party candidate for Congress (the same party as his fellow Robesonian, Governor James Johnson of Georgia), and after two defeats, he was elected to the Twenty-third Congress in 1833. His last political effort was when he was again a candidate for Congress in 1839. An irony of his career is that the opponent he defeated in 1833, but who later beat him in 1839, was Judge James Dellet, another migrant from South Carolina, who had bested him as leader of their class at South Carolina College in 1808.

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[1] The Robesonian, May 17, 1992

DO NOT CIRCULATE

The Robeson Co. Register — Feb. 1994

Governor Murphy died at his plantation near Gosport, Alabama, on Sept. 21, 1841. One of his sons, Duncan, moved to California and was a member of the legislature there.

A sketch of the Murphy family by Mrs. Eugenia McLean Priddy, long-time Lumberton resident, and local records tell something of Governor Murphy's Robeson County connections. Murphy is often thought of as an Irish name, but it is clear that Robeson County's early Murphys were Scottish and from Kintyre in southwest Scotland. Old land records show that several Murphys acquired land in different parts of Robeson County, and the Murdock and Neil Murphy families settled and lived in the Wakulla-Red Springs area. The 1790 census lists seven Murphy families, including Archibald, Duncan, two Edwards, John, Neil and William. Neil Murphy, Governor Murphy's father, is shown as having a household that included three male children under 16, one of who would have been the future governor.

There are indications that at least some of the Murphy's were Tory sympathizers during the Revolution. Governor Murphy's mother was Margaret Downing, and an old book, Caruthers' Revolutionary Incidents, tells of her making an 80-mile trip in 1781 from her home in then Bladen County to nurse her brother, who had been wounded at the Battle of Cane Creek in Orange County while fighting with Colonel David Fanning's Tory forces there. Speculation is that their Tory leanings made the Neil Murphy family uncomfortable in Robeson County after the Revolution and caused their move to South Carolina.

The Murphy family sketch tells of a tragic occurrence in this family. Apparently Neil and Margaret Downing Murphy set out from their home in South Carolina in 1820 to visit sons in Georgia and Alabama. Mrs.. Murphy died in a carriage accident near Edgefield, South Carolina, and was buried there in a field. Neil Murphy died in August 1820 after reaching Alabama and was buried at his son's home near Gosport.

An older brother of the governor, also a Robeson County native, was a distinguished citizen of Alabama in another field. Murdock Murphy, born in 1776, was one of five young men from Robeson County who studied for the Presbyterian ministry at Reverend David Caldwell's "Long College" in Guilford County. In 1801 Murdock Murphy and three others were licensed to preach at a historic session of Orange Presbytery at Barbecue Church, the first native-born ministers of that denomination. They were active in founding several of Robeson County's early Presbyterian churches, and several went as missionaries to other southern states.

Reverend Murdock Murphy preached in Georgia, and in 1823 he joined his brother John in Alabama and acquired land there. He later founded the first Presbyterian church in Mobile. His diary entry for January 2, 1826, says:

"God has seen fit to give my brother, whose happiness is to me like my own, the first magistracy (governorship) of this State, and preserved his family in health."

Although the Neil Murphy family left Robeson County early, there are many connections between the Murphys and families still here. Jennet Murphy, who is believed to have been a daughter of Murdock Murphy and a sister of Neil, married Hector McLean, a native of the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Their eight children, three of who married other McLeans, have produced a multitude of descendants and a tangled history of families that requires a lengthy book to trace (Lumber River Scots, by J. E. Purcell). Their daughter

GENEALOGY COLLECTION
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Effie married John McLean of the Isle of Mull, Scotland, and they were the great-great grandparents of Robeson County's North Carolina governor, Angus Wilton McLean. Thus, Governor John Murphy and Governor McLean had a common ancestor in the original Murphy immigrant, Murdock Murphy, as do a host of families still living in this area.

Two Governors Brown of Tennessee

The clue that led me to the discovery of two more governors whom Robeson County can claim as almost native sons came from a school boy's description of Robeson County written more than a century ago.

Guy and Doris McCormick of Rowland recently gave to Historic Robeson an essay written in 1875 by A. T. McCallum, while he was a student at Ashpole Academy, near the present Rowland. It was found in papers collected by Mrs. Maude Townsend McCormick, Guy's mother, who was a niece of A. T. McCallum's wife. McCallum went on to be a prominent citizen of Red Springs and one of Robeson County's leaders in the early 1900s.

The essay is a fascinating example of what a teenager would write in response to an assignment to describe his county. He gives the location of the county and the date of its founding, the number of voters, and lists some of its assets and liabilities in three short pages of good but boyish script and language. As I was following the clues I had found on two other governors, I remembered reading this, the longest paragraph of the essay:

"There has been more men from Robeson graduated than from any other county in the State and has furnished as learned and distinguished men as any part of the State - among them I will name but a few - Gov. Brown of Tenn., Hon. J. A. Baker of Fla., Hon. McLean of Tex., and Patterson of S. C. who was President of the Senate for twenty years and also Chancellor Johnson." (Possible readers can identify some of these other "learned and distinguished men.")

The reference to "Gov. Brown of Tenn." led me to a Dictionary of American Biography in the public library, where I found to my surprise not one but two governors of Tennessee with Robeson County roots.

Neill Smith Brown and John Calvin Brown, brothers, were governors of Tennessee, more than twenty years apart. Their biographer identifies them as sons of Duncan and Margaret Smith Brown, "who emigrated from Robertson Co., N. C., to Tennessee in 1809." (As with Governor Johnson of Georgia, the biographer misspelled the county's name.) "Their grandfather, Angus Brown, came from Scotland to America in time to fight under Francis Marion in the American Revolution. The Browns in America were small farmers and strict Presbyterians." The stories of these two brothers bear out the school boy McCallum's assertion that Robeson County has produced "learned and distingushed men."

Neill Smith Brown, Governor 1847-1849

Neill Smith Brown was born April 18, 1810, near Pulaski, Giles County, Tennessee, just months after his parents emigrated. (We may be able to claim that he was conceived in Robeson County.) "He began work on a farm at the age of seven years and with his meager savings managed to attend school now and then, but before his

COLLECTION
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PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:22 AM

HOMELIFE
TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES
TIME: 01/31 12:22 PM

TO: HARRIETT HOLLY (DKWD86A)
FROM: JOHN MURPHREE (JGVF60A)
SUBJECT: MURPHREE

Harriett,

I do not have the full record on Solomon Murphree b 1757. The document I have before me from the Murphree Genealogical Association indicates Solomon was married three times. It looks like his first wife was named Elizabeth his second wife was Sarah Blair, and third wife Mary E. "Holly" Prater, or Praytor. But the copy I have of this document is not very clear and I am not certain.

You probably could get your information from Carolyn Backstrom, Gautier, Mississippi, who is the Genealogist for the Association. She has these records, I understand, at her home.

I am descended from Levi Murphree b ca 1751,one of Solomon's brothers..

John P. Murphree, Nashville, TN

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:24 AM

HOMELIFE
TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES
TIME: 02/01 6:44 PM

TO: HARRIETT HOLLY (DKWD86A)
FROM: RAYNETTA HILL (THRT56B)
SUBJECT: MURPHREE

Harriett, I am descended directly from Daniel MURPHREE who m. Sarah DEMPSEY. Solomon was indeed one of their sons, the 4th one in fact. Do you have or need a list of their children? I have it if you need it. I have Solomon md. 3 times, 1. Elizabeth ?, 2. Sarah Ward, 3. Polly Prater. The children you listed as all Elizabeth's children. Kessiah (listed 6th in your list) was Kessiah Marion, m. Warham >>>> Easley. I have birth dates for all these children if you need them. Who do you descend from in Solomon's and Elizabeth's family. I am from Daniel/Pheriby Bynum's line. My grandmother was a MURPHREE.

Raynetta Hill, THRT56B, Biloxi, Ms.

P.S. Thanks to whoever had the name of Carolyn Bachstrom in Gautier, Ms. That is just up the road from me and I am going to try to contact her. Thanks again. Raynetta

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:20 AM

HOMELIFE
TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES
TIME: 01/30 8:25 PM

TO: ALL
FROM: HARRIETT HOLLY (DKWD86A)
SUBJECT: MURPHREE

Solomon MURPHREE b ca 1757 in NC. Did he marry Elizabeth PRATHER? and who else? I have the following children but not sure who the mother was. Rebecca md Asa Bynum; Danile md Pheriba Bynum; Mary md Benjamin Easley; Edith md Daniel Stephens; Rhoda md John Bynum; Kessiah; Hannah md Jesse Ellis; Elizabeth; Sarah md William Faust; Mariam md Warham Easley. Was Solomon a son of Daniel MURPHREE and Sarah DEMPSEY?

Harriett Holly DKWD86A
11643 N 103 Ave
Sun City, AZ 85351

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:21 AM

HOMELIFE
TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES
TIME: 01/31 12:16 PM

TO: HARRIETT HOLLY (DKWD86A)
FROM: JAMES CATMULL (BXMD24A)
SUBJECT: MURPHREE

Harriett
This is not my line, but is the line of my sister-in-law The information I have is as follows:
Solomon L. Murphree b. abt 1757 NC. (of Benton Co., AL in 1850) will dated 23 Nov. 1852 and proved 1854. He is buried Oneonta, Calhoun, AL (Eulaton United Methodist Church Cemetery). He was the son of Daniel Murphree & Sarah Dempsey He married 3 times (1) Elizabeth ------ (2) Sarah ------ (3) 28 May 1823 to Polly Prater. I also found in the IGI an entry for Solo. Murphy md 29 Oct. 1781 to Betsy Guion in Orange Co., NC. (this may be his marriage to Elizabeth). It may be that Sarah was his 3rd wife instead of 2nd for I also found in the IGI an entry for Solomon Murphree md 13 Dec. 1832 Sarah Frances Brown in Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa, AL. (don't know if this is the same Solomon - may be of a different family or Generation).

James Catmull
(BXMD24A)

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:25 AM

HOMELIFE
TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES
TIME: 02/02 3:49 PM

TO: RAYNETTA HILL (THRT56B)
FROM: LOUANN BARNETT (WTBD52A)
SUBJECT: MURPHREE

According to Solomon's Bible record. Only those children you mentioned are listed.
He made his will out 23Nov1852 age(100) having suvived most of his children. His son Daniel having passed away in 1851. He appointed his son Solomon L. and Benjamin Easley to be executors. They determinded the following people to be heirs of the estate:
Mary Easley
Solomon L Murphree
Anney Burden
Emiley Heaton
Nancy Ellis
Sarah Mackey
Eady Stephens
Rhody Bynum
These were the living children they each received $693.80
Daniel Murphree's children ($86.72 ea)
Solomon
Jesse
James*
Caleb
Martha Staton
Levi
Barzilla
William Bynum
Rebecca Bynum's children ($69.38 ea)
Isaac
Solomon
Jesse
Asa
Rebecca Stephens
James
Elijah?
Sarah Holly's Children who are great grand children of deceased ($23.12 2/3 each) how they split that penny I don't know.
E. K. Holly
Daniel Holly (minor)
Elijah Holly (minor)
Eady Morton was deceased and those great grandchildren got same amount as the Holly's
Elijah Morton
Daniel Morton
Serena Bynum

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:26 AM

Kiziah Halmark was also deceased Those childre got $115.63
1/3
James M
Serena Morton
L Paralee Halmark
Marilda Armstong
Mary Ann Morton
Sarah S Nesmith
The James Murphree* is my gggrandfather

Raynetta I know this is going to be addressed to you even
though I'm answering someone else's question. I've been
putting the Murphrees out on Brother's Keeper. I'm up to
over 2000 people and in the next few days will be to
Orlando and Chloe's children. Could you fill me in on them.
Since the book said GTT(gone to Texas) Thanks

LouAnn

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 9:27 AM

HOMELIFE
TOPIC: GENEALOGY SURNAMES
TIME: 02/02 3:50 PM

TO: EDWARD MURPHREE (FFKS53A)
FROM: LOUANN BARNETT (WTBD52A)
SUBJECT: MURPHREE

And a small correction to Ed's note. Daniel Solomon's son
came in 1818. John Bynum came in 1819. Solomon and the
"troups" came later. The troups are Asa Bynum & family,
Rhoda with John's family, Pherbia with Daniel's family.
Corneilus', Allgoods, Molly Marchbanks with Solomon's
brother Daniel's family. The man at the Blount Co Court
House said there are more Murphree's there than Smiths LouAn

PRODIGY(R) interactive personal service 02/03/92 4:45 PM

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogical Dept.
Murphy - Murphree Family

FACES OF THE COAST

William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Danny Murphy

Danny Murphy and his wife, Dawn, own the Sunshine Health Foods store in Pascagoula. Danny got involved in the health food business after a diet of whole foods and natural supplements helped him recover from chronic fatigue after traditional medical treatments had no effect. As well as offering healthy products in his store, he tries to educate people on healthy living. "I love working with all my customers and meeting new people." Danny says he gets a great deal of satisfaction helping people to feel better. "It's fun to know that I've helped somebody that felt terrible before they walked in." Danny is also a volunteer for Hope House, a street ministry for children. He says he gets joy from helping kids learn to overcome their problems. Danny has lived on the Coast for the past 40 years and has two children and two grandchildren.

MDOT gran

From Staff Reports

PASCAGOULA — Five loc students are helping beauti Pascagoula.

Using a $36,000 grant fro the Mississippi Departme of Transportation's Hurrica Recovery Program, the cit hired Chase Guess, Barri McCorvey, Diaz Darde Cedric Harrison and Tynek Weathersby for several sun mer projects throughou Pascagoula.

Along Pascagoula Stree and the Pascagoula Publi Library, the students hav planted more than 200 Encor azaleas, which were provide through a separate grant fro Flowood Nursery.

Kevin Hall, Pascagoula' landscape and design manag er, said the city is "very fortu nate" to have both grants.

The MDOT money pays fo the labor, while the Flowoo Nursery money pays for th Encore azalea species, whic can cost between $20 to $3 each, Hall said.

Leftover flowers will b planted in other various loca tions, Hall added.

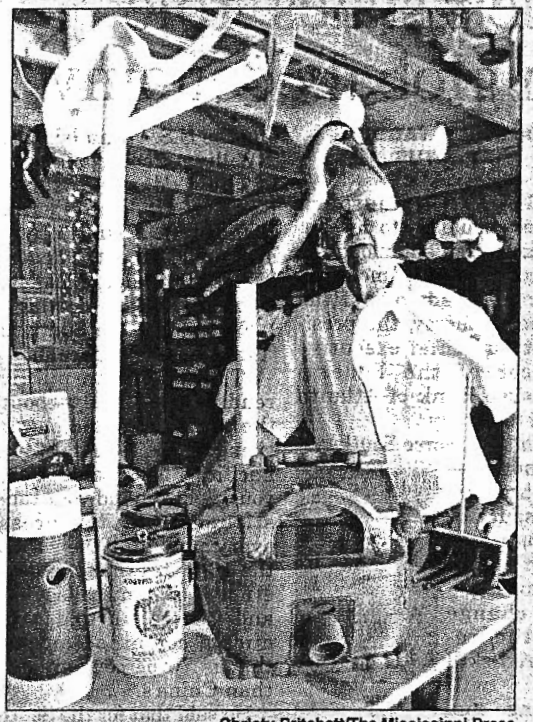
Other Coast cities have received similar grants.

Another project the stu dents are embarking on is the construction of a "reading gazebo" at the library, which was made possible through a recent $20,000 donation from the late Mary Frances Lewis Atwood.

For nearly a decade, the city of Pascagoula has taken

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2007

FACES OF THE COAST



Christy Pritchett/The Mississippi Press

Robert Murphy

Robert Murphy is a man who never rests. Even at night he is dreaming of new inventions. At 79, Murphy has worked all his life and has no plans to stop now. Murphy retired after working overseas for 35 years in heavy construction. After returning to the United States, he wanted to keep busy and began creating works of art with PVC pipe. He has created arbors, trellises, plant holders, yard art, seasonal light displays, bird houses and feeders. Murphy also creates bird houses out of unusual items such as Easy Bake Ovens and other children's toys. He says he sees something in a store and gets an idea for it. Murphy says that he loves to work and is "loaded with ambition." He said that it is important for older people to stay active and he keeps his work load full. Murphy enjoys traveling to different fairs and craft shows to sell his creations. He said that he also loves to see the smiles on children's faces when they find something that they love, and meeting the people at the events. Murphy says that his PVC birds are a good seller and that he ships them all over the world. Murphy welcomes people to his workshop to browse his creations and inventions. He can be reached at (228) 623-5924. The Helena resident is married, has one child and two grandchildren.

Lagman, Claire

Murphy, Claire

Panter Claire

Tindell, Eileen Claire

THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS / gulflive.com/mississippipress WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

FIVE GENERATIONS

Five generations gathered recently to celebrate the 96th birthday of Claire Lagman, seated at right. Among those taking part in the celebration included Mary Claire Murphy, seated, of Pascagoula; and, back row, Claire Panter Tindell of Gulfport, holding her son Samuel Joseph Tindell, and Eileen Claire Murphy Panter of Pascagoula.

Submitted by Eileen Claire Panter

MURPHY

Thomas L. "T.L." Murphy, 82, of Vancleave, Miss., died September 29, 1996 in Biloxi, Miss. He was born March 8, 1914 in Vancleave, Miss., and had been a lifelong resident of Jackson County. In 1933, after graduation from Perkinston Jr. College, Mr. Murphy went to work for the U.S. Forest Service. He was a WWII Army Veteran, participating in the "Battle of The Bulge", was wounded twice, awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and many other medals. He had the distinction of laying the first charges that opened the fences and liberated the detainees of Stalag 9. After demobilization, Mr. Murphy was asked by the government to work with the University of Berlin. His plans, practices, and recommendations are best exemplified by anyone visiting the "Black Forest" of Germany. He was owner/operator of a sawmill and was instrumental in providing natural gas to the residents of east Vancleave. Mr. Murphy was appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Board of Directors of Merchants and Marine Bank and was appointed as a Charter Member of the Pat Harrison Waterway Commission. He and Hermes Gautier created and operated a Tuna Canning Plant on Bluff Creek, helped establish, build and manage Southern Paper Company Paper Mill in Wiggins and was instrumental in the development and testing of alternative wood preserving materials. Mr. Murphy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Vancleave. He was preceded in death by his wife, Paula O. Murphy, his parents, Thomas L. and Lillie A. Murphy, Sr.; and brother, P.G. Murphy.

Survivors include two brothers, Omar M. Murphy, Tulsa, Okla. and C.E. Murphy, Piedmont, Ala.; two sisters, Althea Flurry and Maudree Tootle, both of Vancleave; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Visitation will be Wednesday, October 2, 1996 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Holder-Wells Funeral Home.

Funeral service will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home chapel with the Revs. Bill Barton and Greg Potts officiating.

Interment will be in Vancleave #1 Cemetery.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Walter P. Roberts, Robert Holden, Dick Foxworth, Metro Taylor, W.J. Hunt, Allen Bonham, Ivan Ellis and the Directors and Honorary Directors of Merchant and Marine Bank.

Active Pallbearers will be Bryan Bell, Thomas Tootle, Brill Fairley, John Ford, Frank Burt and David Bosarge.

Arrangements by Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, Miss.